
RTÉ General Election / Climate

BroadCastCompliance <BroadCastCompliance@rte.ie>

20 November 2024 at 16:14

To: Barry McMullin <barry.mcmullin@dcu.ie>

Cc: "Daly, Hannah E." <h.daly@ucc.ie>, John Sweeney <John.Sweeney@mu.ie>, Clare Kelly <clare.kelly@tcd.ie>, BroadCastCompliance <BroadCastCompliance@rte.ie>

Dear Prof McMullin & colleagues,

I refer to your email below regarding the petition proposal.

RTÉ does not agree with your view that our coverage does not reflect the emergency situation with climate and biodiversity.

As outlined in the previous response, RTÉ devotes considerable resources to climate coverage on an on-going basis.

I would also like to clarify our engagement with political parties. Political parties are not involved in or asked to contribute to planning our coverage.

The purpose of the engagement is to outline the election coverage plans that have been approved by the RTÉ Election Steering Group, including programme and debate formats and listen to their views.

There is an on-going engagement with political parties, and they will often suggest that we cover particular themes or topics, sometimes in advance of an election. The point was that no party suggested or asked about a dedicated climate debate prior to the election, and this only arose after the campaign was underway.

The engagement around the election is appropriate as they are contesting the election and will be nominating party representatives to participate in our programming.

To be clear, under the broadcasting legislation and broadcasting codes, editorial decisions are solely for the broadcaster.

Programme editors and teams have to make editorial judgements drawing on their experience as programme makers, the legal and regulatory framework and the specific election guidance issued by the broadcasting regulator, Coimisiún na Meán.

As the previous response outlined, issues related to climate have been and will be addressed in our coverage. It was dealt with in the leaders' debate on Monday, it will be dealt on *The Week in Politics* next Sunday to tie in with the COP talks, and again in the debate featuring the three main party leaders next Tuesday.

The questions you suggest are noted and will be circulated for consideration by relevant programme teams.

Yours Sincerely

BRIAN DOWLING

Head of Editorial Standards and Compliance

Ceannasaí um Chaighdeáin Eagarthóireachta agus Comhlíonadh